

## PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

## Roman Reflections

Today I begin a series of personal reflections on my days in Rome. I write these notes from the Eternal City in an historic moment in the life of the universal Church.



For the first time, bishops of one country are meeting in Rome for a period of study and prayer. And it is just that — with barely enough time left in the evening to read the study assignments for the next day. The Holy Father has been apprised of the serious intent of our meeting and, of this writing, was planning to join us on Sept. 22 for a concelebrated liturgy in the Sistine Chapel.

I have attended classes for three weeks now — four hours of lectures and discussion each day — six days per week — with some of the world's outstanding Catholic specialists in Scripture, Theology, and Philosophy. We may be confused at times but I have yet to hear a word of disappointment with the program. We surely have all learned one lesson — that we are not men with free and easy access to neatly packaged solutions to the problems that challenge us today. Our faith, like the faith of all men, must be kept alive by a constant personal effort for renewal.

The general theme for our program has been "The New Man in Jesus Christ." Some 72 American bishops are here for this period of grace, removed from the preoccupation of daily demands, to reflect on this theme and to make it an internal and active principle in their lives.

The lives of all of us are touched today

by the phenomenon of change that is radical, accelerated, and frequently threatening. This has posed questions for faith and serious problems for theology. I personally consider it a joyful task to learn to read the signs of our times in the authentic light of Christ's Gospel. The Church today, as in every age, exists to proclaim the reign of Christ in this world of change. It is only by facing squarely the challenges of the 'now' that we bishops can fulfill our role as leaders of the Christian Community and as heralds of the Good News.

Just as Abraham, who is hailed in our liturgy as our 'father in faith,' was called to set out on a journey to a land he had never seen, by a route he had never traveled, so we (all of us) are called to venture into a world of change that promises the unexpected. The early Church had to confront the crises in faith that beset her and to cope with change. The Church of the 20th Century cannot consider herself immune from the same crises.

Since a dynamic world is not automatically a world of spiritual and moral progress, the direction of our development will always depend on the direction that we, under God's providence, choose to give it. As men of the faith, we have assembled to seek means to be found worthy of our vocation of leadership in a dynamic church. We have confidence in the Spirit of Christ, the unique source of our renewal, and of our hope — knowing well that it is in Christ, the New Man, that we live forever and overcome the confusion and brooding pessimism that seek to destroy us.

I have found here no bishops with inflexible attitudes towards change, no camps of liberals pitted against conservatives — only a fraternity of prayerful men seeking the

truth. Our teachers have commented on the depth of our common concern for the life of the Church as reflected in the nature of our questions posed to them.

The teaching Church will always rely heavily on the insights of the scholar. In this consultation we are blessed to have as our lecturers men of the stature of David Stanley, SJ; Raymond Brown, SS; Bernard Haring, CSSR; Joseph Fuchs, SJ; Jan Holeman, SVD; Henry Heckeron, SVD; Ambrose McNickoll, OP; Edward Malatesta, SJ; Francis McCool, SJ; Sean O'Riordan, CSSR; Alonso Schokel, SJ. Any churchman who has tried to keep attuned to developments in the ecclesiastical sciences has already met most of these men through their writings. It has been the great grace of this Institute to meet them in person. Without exception, I have found them to be men of deep faith fully aware of their responsibilities as loyal sons of Holy Mother Church.

I thank God continually for the blessings of these days spent at the old North American College on Humility Street in the heart of Rome. Much of the building dates back to the 16th Century. Our rooms are simple but adequate. The staff has made every effort to create the great spirit of fraternity that is very much evident. Most of the credit for the beauty of these days, which are passing so quickly, must be given to Msgr. Richard Mahowald, a priest of the Diocese of Sioux Falls in South Dakota, the superior of our house, the Casa Santa Maria, and the founder and director of the Institute for Continuing Theological Education for bishops and priests.

I have offered these days of prayer and study to Almighty God, seeking His blessing for all of you, my beloved family of the Diocese of Rochester.

## Catholics May Join Masons Vatican Says

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — Catholic laymen are free to hold membership in Masonic orders where the lodges do not "plot against the Church," according to a Vatican clarification of canon law.

However, clergy, religious and members of secular institutes (organizations for both clergy and laity who take vows but live in the world) are still "forbidden in every case to join any Masonic association," according to Cardinal Franjo Seper, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The long-expected statement from the Vatican was given in a letter to Cardinal John Krol,

president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and copies of the letter were sent to all U.S. bishops.

Commenting on the letter, Cardinal Krol said the Catholic Church continues to "discourage Catholic membership in the Masons and to impose the penalty of excommunication in the case of membership in secret societies which are actively hostile to the Church."

But he said the Vatican letter also made it clear that the provision regarding excommunication was to be interpreted in the light of the actual practice and attitude of a particular group.

## St. Agnes School Sets Pilgrimage

Avon — The 180 children of St. Agnes School will make a pilgrimage Friday, Sept. 27, to St.

## Nazareth College Salutes the Arts

Nazareth College will present a Salute to the Arts, Sept. 28, in honor of its 50th Anniversary with the Rochester Philharmonic Chamber Players, the Rochester Shakespeare Theatre and the Bottom of the Bucket But Dance Theatre.

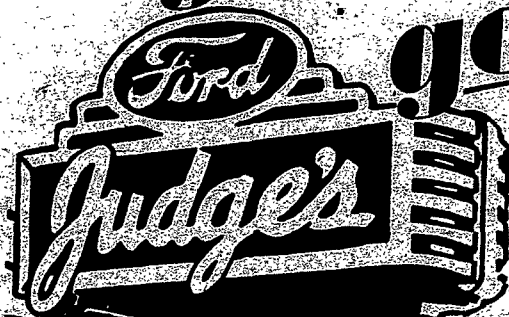
The two part program will climax a week long series of events and will be held in the Nazareth Arts Center Auditorium at 8:30 p.m.

Columba's Church in Caledonia, seven miles away. They will be accompanied by their teachers and many of their parents.

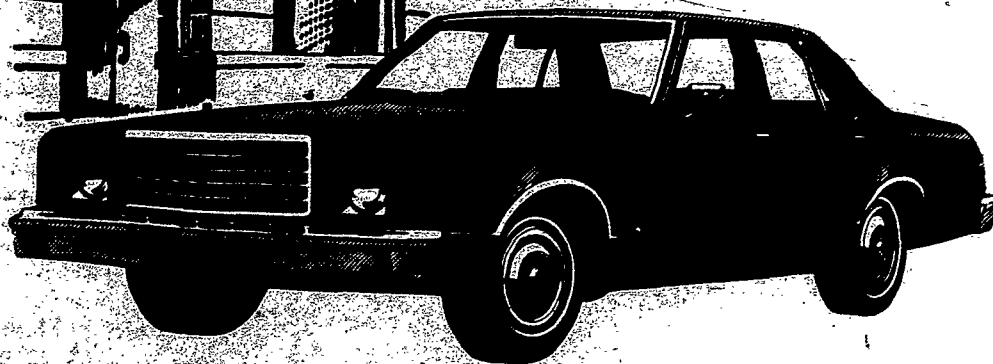
Father Henry Atwell of St. Agnes will concelebrate a noon Mass with Father Emmett Halloran, pastor of the Holy Year pilgrimage church. The congregation will form a procession outdoors and march through the aisles of the church, banners flying.

Each class, kindergarten through eighth grade, has prepared a banner bearing a statement that will be taken as the class motto for the year, according to Claude Lester, a faculty member.

go Ford!  
go Granada!  
go Judge!



See the exciting all-new Granada and the complete line of new 1975 Fords now on display for immediate delivery at Judge's!



YOU CAN ALWAYS BE ASSURED OF THE BEST PRICE  
BEST TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE AND BEST SERVICE  
HERE AT ROCHESTER'S LARGEST FORD DEALER!

81 Lake Avenue